

1993, this organization and its army of volunteers has dedicated itself to protecting America's greatest river here at the head of navigation. Countless hours of hard work and dedication by FMR in partnership with many other organizations and individuals is making a difference for generations to come.

When the Friends of the Mississippi River was founded in 1993 its mission was to engage citizens in an effort to protect, restore and enhance the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities region. The river is one of our nation's most important natural resources, cherished each year by millions of residents and visitors alike. As one of the world's longest rivers, the Mississippi is a defining geographic feature of North America and its watershed drains all or parts of 31 states. The river's ecosystem is a natural resource of global significance, with nearly half of North America's ducks, geese and swans relying on the Mississippi River for food, direction and resting places during seasonal migrations.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of its staff, board and the hundreds of members and volunteers that support it, FMR is a one of Minnesota's leading citizen organizations for land conservation, watershed protection and river stewardship. As the ecological vitality of the Upper Mississippi River continues to be under threat, FMR faces the important task of protecting the river's ability to support native plant and animal species. Today, FMR continues to lead efforts critical to the long-term wellbeing of the Mississippi River and the Twin Cities region. FMR provides expertise and technical assistance critical to the protection of the Mississippi River and it continues to engage public and private landowners, local governments and concerned citizens as a steward for current and future generations.

FMR advocacy has helped to make the Twin Cities a model for watershed planning and decision-making. Over the past two decades, FMR has nobly fought for the protection and improvement of the Mississippi River and watershed, and their hard work deserves recognition.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the commitment and dedication of the Friends of the Mississippi River as we commemorate their 20th anniversary today, as they continue the legacy to restore and protect this river for future generations of Minnesotans and indeed all Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 462, I was unable to be present for the vote on S. 793. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING HOLY NAME HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone in the life of a high

school in Ohio. Holy Name High School in Parma Heights begins a yearlong centennial celebration in 2014.

In the first decade of the Twentieth Century, the people of Holy Name Parish determined the grade school must be expanded to offer college preparatory second level higher education. In the fall of 1914, Holy Name High School admitted its first classes. Educated by the Sisters of Charity, Holy Name was the first Catholic high school in the Cleveland area to enroll both male and female students. In its ensuing century of education, both the school and its nearly 20,000 alumni have gone on to make a difference throughout the community, nation and world.

The school's motto, "The School's The Thing," was adopted in 1926. Its message conveys the credo that personal glory in school activity means little. The school encourages its students through the teachings of the Gospels to live Catholic values and develop abilities that prepare them to lead responsible, constructive, and meaningful lives. Name High School seal consists of the Chi Rho encircled by the school of identification. Its seal, the Greek Chi Rho, is an official expression of Holy Name's desire to do all things in Christ, with Him, and through Him.

Holy Name High School's rigorous academic standards are echoed in its extra-curricular activities. From clubs to performances to sports, the "Green Wave" excels. Coined in the 1920, the Green Wave was first used to describe the perfect coordination of the Holy Name football team, which gave the appearance of a giant green wave engulfing opponents.

Through its century of education, Holy Name High School has educated its students, promoted strong values and prepared them to live lives of service. Its alumni include people in public service as well as the private sector, community leaders and those in service to our nation. As the school, its students, parents and alumni celebrate its 100th anniversary milestone, we know they will look upon their years at Holy Name High School with fond recollection, warm memories and pride. Turning toward the future, Holy Name High School walks confidently, ensuring a quality well-rounded education for the generations to come. Onward!

RECOGNIZING MR. WILLIAM "POPSIE" THOMPSON AND "THE WORLD FAMOUS RAINBOW CRUSADERS"

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of one of my most distinguished constituents, Mr. William "Popsie" Thompson, and the young people who work with him as part of "The World Famous Rainbow Crusaders" community musical group. A gifted performer, he uses his talents and abilities to keep our children safe and prepare them for a brighter future.

In 1986, Popsie noticed a group of bored children gathering around his tailor shop in Sunrise, Florida. It occurred to him that what these kids needed was an activity to boost

their self-esteem and academic potential. This inspired Popsie to form The World Famous Rainbow Crusaders, a diverse troupe of over 200 young singers and dancers ranging from ages 2 to 20.

The group has since become a fixture at local celebrations and parades in the south Florida area, representing the community values of tolerance and racial harmony. Furthermore, they are the first drug awareness program to be officially recognized by the Boy Scouts of America. Popsie and his Crusaders have traveled throughout the country, with performances in Tennessee, Georgia, and Washington, DC being among their most notable appearances.

Mr. Speaker, due to their continued efforts to promote the values of anti-drug use, education, and racial harmony, I am proud to recognize Popsie Thompson and The World Famous Rainbow Crusaders. Thanks to them, hundreds of children and young adults in south Florida have greater opportunities to excel and make a difference in their community.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING CSM (RET.) ELLIS DANDY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Ellis Dandy, who will be retiring from Fort Benning's Equal Employment Office after more than 52 years of combined active duty military and civil service. He will be honored at a retirement ceremony on Thursday, September 19, 2013 at 12:30 p.m. at McGinnis Wickam Hall at Fort Benning.

A Columbus, Georgia native, Mr. Dandy enlisted in the United States Army after graduating from high school in 1960. Throughout his military career, he served tours of duty in Europe, Southeast Asia and Korea. He taught at Army schools and served first as an Instructor/Facilitator and later as a Senior Instructor at the former Department of Defense Race Relations Institute, which is now called the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. His last assignment on active duty was at the Pentagon where he served as the Army's Sergeant Major for Equal Opportunity (EO).

After 25 years of military service, Mr. Dandy retired in 1986 with the rank of Sergeant Major (E9). He earned both an Associate and Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology/Psychology from the University of Maryland while on active duty. He also completed the requirements for a Master's in Management from Troy State University shortly after his retirement. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Department of Defense Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (2), Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Army's General Staff Badge, among others.

Not long after his retirement, Mr. Dandy chose to again serve his country as a civil servant and accepted a position as Equal Employment Officer with the United States Food and Drug Administration in Rockville, Maryland in 1987.

In 1988, the Second Congressional District of Georgia gained an extraordinary and hard-working citizen when Mr. Dandy moved to Fort